

Questions and Answers
RFQ 600-08-602

Technical Assistance for Alternative & Renewable
Fuel & Vehicle Technology Program

Pre-Bid Conference
February 26, 2009

Q1. Are you still planning to release the CON as an RFP?

A1. The funding and technical tasks presented in CON 600-08-601 have been substantially revised and distributed as three different types of solicitations (RFQ, RFP and RFO). One of these is this Request for Qualifications (RFQ); another is Request for Proposals (RFP) 600-08-601 which was released on March 4, 2009. This RFP can be seen on the California Energy Commission's website at:
<http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/transportation.html>
And the final is a Request for Offers (RFO) that was released on January 30, 2009.

Q2. Will bidding on this RFQ exempt us from bidding on the larger AB 118 Support which hasn't yet been released and was included in the Contract Opportunity Notice (CON) 600-08-601?

A2. A company that bids on or that is selected as Contractor for the contract that will result from this RFQ may bid on other solicitations for technical support for the AB 118 program, including RFP 600-08-601.

Q3. Will bidding on this [RFQ] cause a conflict of interest for further technical support contracts under AB 118?

A3. Responses to all solicitations, including any future solicitation for technical support to the AB 118 program, will be evaluated for legal conflict of interest, including but not limited to conflicts arising under Sections 10365.5, 10410, and 10411 of the California Public Contracts Code, and under the Political Reform Act (Sections 81000 *et seq.* of the California Government Code). Staff does not anticipate that the work to be performed under the contract that will result from this RFQ will give rise to a legal conflict of interest that will preclude work on future contracts for technical support to the AB 118 program.

Q4. On page 2 of the RFQ, you refer to a "no-fee retainer contract." Can you explain what that means (i.e., that we can't charge fee on work done or does it mean that you can hold us on retainer without paying us for being on retainer or something else)?

A4. The selected Contractor will be held on retainer, but will not be paid a fee for being on retainer. Work will be assigned by Work Authorization (WA) and the Contractor will be paid according to the approved work conducted as a result of the WA.

Q5. Are you considering more than one award?

A5. No, only one contract will result from this solicitation.

Q6. Under Task 2, what do you envision as the level of effort for each proposal review?

A6. Work will be assigned through the Work Authorization (WA) process, with each WA having its own schedule and budget. The level of effort (LOE) required to review and evaluate an individual proposal may vary widely, and will be proposal-specific. The LOE will depend on the nature, size, and complexity of the specific project being proposed.

Q7. What is the quantity of proposals you expect to receive in a 12-month period?

A7. The Program is unable to determine how many proposals we will receive.

Q8. Is there a minimum or maximum value [dollar amount] for proposals that the Energy Commission will consider for funding under the AB 118 Program?

Q8. No, but you are referred to the "Proposed Funding Recommendations" on pages 28-34 in the Draft Staff Paper, *Investment Plan for the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program*, California Energy Commission, Publication Number CEC-600-2008-007-D, December 2008. These funding recommendations may give you an indication of the size of project proposals that may be submitted.

Q9. On page 1 of the RFQ, what is meant by "Solid mechanics?"

Q9. Solid mechanics is the branch of mechanics, physics, and mathematics that concerns the behavior of solid matter under external actions (e.g., external forces, temperature changes, applied displacements, etc.).

Q10. What is the expected timeframe for AB 118 funding to begin?

A10. \$75M is budgeted for FY08/09, and we anticipate about \$100M to be budgeted for FY09/10. The Program is currently developing solicitations for AB 118 Program funding opportunities that we anticipate will be released in spring 2009.

Q11. What happens if we commit to 5-percent Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) participation but, because the specific nature of the projects is not currently known, we are unable to fulfill the commitment?

A11. The selected Contractor will be obligated to the committed DVBE participation based upon the work authorizations. If the selected Contractor makes a good faith effort to fulfill its DVBE commitment, but is unable to do so due to the specific nature of the work, there will not be any penalties. However, if this type of situation arises the Contractor must discuss the circumstances with the Commission Contract Manager and the Contract Officer to obtain agreement between all parties that the DVBE commitment is unable to be fulfilled.